

THE
Miraculous Child
OR,
Wonderfull News
FROM
MANCHESTER

A most true and certain Account, how one *Child*
Benet, a Child but Three years old (on the 21st of *May*
1679.) doth speak *Latine*, *Greek* and *Hebrew*, though never taught
those Languages; and answers all Questions relating to the same,
in a wonderful manner.

And is now brought up to be presented to the *King*.

Having all along on his Journey, been visited at *Cowenry*,
and other Places, by most of the Ministers and other Learned Men;
to whom he gives such satisfaction, that they depart with Wonder and
Amazement.

If any question the Certainty of this Relation, let them repair to
Mrs. Nightingale's at the *Bear Inn* in *West Smithfield* (where the
Child now Resides) and they may be abundantly satisfied.

Miraculous Cure

O.R.

Wondertall New

ROOM

MANCHESTER



(1)

THE Wonderfull Child,

or
Strange News

FROM

MANCHESTER.

THe Holy Scripture witnesseth, that
God doth often reveal his strength,
and shew the glorious effects of his
power, out of the mouths of *Babes and sucklings*.
What we are here to relate, is certainly, as rare
and signal a dispensation of his providence, as
most that have appeared in our Age. And
this is concerning a Child, the Discourse and
wonder of all *Lancashire, Warwickshire, and*
parts adjacent: For that having never been
taught any but his mother Tongue, and be-

ing in Truth of an age too young and incapable, to all humane apprehension, of being taught or instructed in any thing of Learning, being but three years of Age; and when he began first, not so much: he does yet freely and frequently speak *Latine*, *Greek*, and *Hebrew*, besides *English*, which he was bred unto: and answers Questions demanded of him, in any of those Languages.

The name of this strange Child is *Charles Bennet*, the son of one *Thomas Bennet*, an honest, poor, industrious man in the town of *Manchester*, and was born on the 12. day of *June*, in the year of our Lord 1676. so that two days before this last *Midsummer*-day, he was compleatly three years of age and no more; as not only by its Parents Affirmation, but likewise that of the Church-book, and the Testimony of many of their Neighbours, does most certainly appear.

As for the constitution and features of this Child, its countenance is very solid and composed; and considering its tender age (which usually is brisk and full of play) he seems somewhat inclined to Melancholy, yet hath a kind of Majestical Gravity even already appearing

in his looks; which is frequently attended with a modest smile: and when he hears people fall into excessive praises of, or wondring extremely at him, does commonly blush and reprove them, desiring them to praise that God, and admire his power and goodness, who is the sole bestower of every good and perfect Gift and work. 'Tis commonly reported, that his mother when big with him, had several very strange dreams, which did denote what a prodigious or famous Child she should bring into the World. But I would not relate any thing here, that is uncertain, or doubtfully told, but what is of approved Truth.

He had the use of his Tongue, and could prattle *English*, when he was but a year and a quarter old; but as for *Latin*, or any other Language, he was never taught any thing of that kind: For his Fathers Circumstances were far from being such as to be at that charge and expence. When he began first of all to speak other Tongues, cannot precisely be set down; for the parents do say, That they have often heard him speak words they could not understand; but believed it to be only a Childish Gibberish. But about a quarter of a year ago,
there

there was publick notice taken of him; For one of his Relations being reading a Chapter, the Child observed that they read wrong; and withal told them what was the Right; and afterwards was heard by several that understood it to speak words of *Latine*, at which the Hearers were not a little surprized; both because of his age, and of his Education; And upon a second demand in *Latine*, receiving a sensible and plain answer, they were more concerned; and when on further tryal, he was found not only to understand *Latine*, but likewise *Greek* and *Hebrew* too, they were wholly astonished; and acquainting others with this rarity, the report thereof soon spread throughout all the Country; and abundance of Ministers, Physicians, and Gentlemen that are Scholars come out of Curiosity to see and hear him; which when they have done, they all confess that they never saw, heard of, or read the like.

'Tis said, one of the first things when he came to discourse in *Latine*, was, that he must go to the King, for he had something to say to him: what it is, he will not, 'tis said, discover to any other: but desired he might be carried up to
London;

London; which not being much taken notice of at first; he often repeated the same both in *Latine, Greek and English*, to several that came to visit him; who at last agreed, that it was very fit he should come up; and accordingly he is now on his Journey towards *London*; but cannot travel but a very little way in a day, because of the multitude that crowd to see him, and persons of Quality sending for him to their houses, out of the Road. He was lately at *Coventry*, where all the Magistrates came to see him, and heard him talk in the Languages aforesaid to several Ministers; whom he very freely converses with, and answers all questions out of the Bible, in a wonderful manner.

There are some people that would seem very wise, that imagine this Child is posselt, and that some evil Spirit answers for it, in this variety of Languages: but I can by no means yield to this their uncharitable opinion; as well, because possessions are always attended with some kind of pain, or disorder of the body, and oft-time distorting the Countenance; of all which there is not in this Case the least sign: and further, because whatever this Child

speaks,,

Speaking in a pleasant way and voice, and
dismissing all kind of wickedness. For his
character is so admirable even to heathens
and among their Idolaters, that we are lively
that no evil spirit should speak so much against
their oppressors. We can therefore esteem it
rather as an extraordinary gift from God, and
have a will to witness to advance his Glory,
that those who will not be reclaimed from
their ill lives by the Ministry of the
Church, may at least be saved and delivered
from their Sin, to see the young miraculous
preacher, come to preach to heathens.

We have a Tradition of the famous *St. John*
Mary, that he was healed from his very Infan-
cy, when we have read him not to have been
of lawful Age, but cured by the Ministry of
Angels. I cannot say he was cured from his
Sins, for he was never in Sin. I can
not say he was cured from his Sins, and yet
I hear that several things he had said, have
afterwards come to pass. He came to London
the 20th Instant, and lodged at the Star Inn in
Southwark, where hundreds have been to see him.

1691. 1. 21. 2

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